

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's #
57-11-1

USGS Quad
Whitman

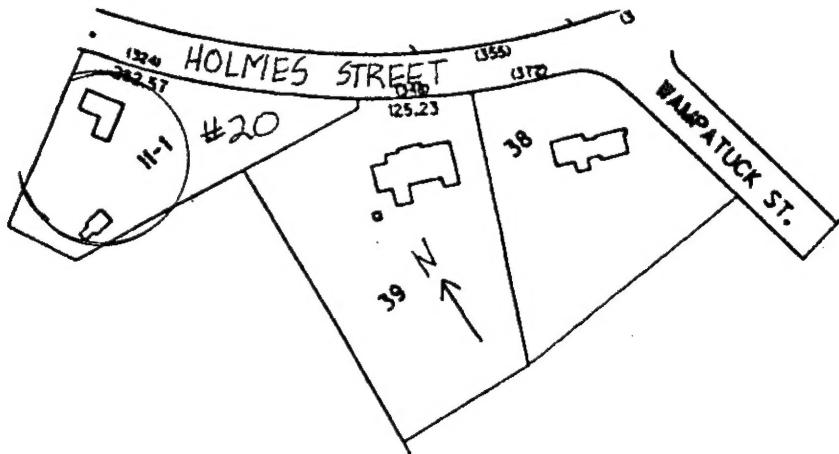
Area

Form #

20



Sketch Map



Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical
Commission**

Date **April 1996**

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **324 Holmes Street**

Historic Name **Thomas House**

Use: Present **residence**

Original **residence**

Date **before 1830 or c. 1770s**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **Federal/ell house**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite & brick**

Wall/Trim **clapboard & shingle**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **small converted barn**

Major Alterations **see description**

Condition **excellent**

Moved **no**

Acreage **33, 700 sq. ft.**

Setting **rural residential**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Thomas House at 324 Holmes Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story ell house. Though comparatively rare in Hanson, in New England generally builders designed houses that appeared on the facade to take the double house form, but in actuality were only a single room deep with service spaces in a rear ell. This five-bay wide by single-pile deep gabled mass is an unusual example of this form because it is only one-and-one-half stories. The ell has been altered by the addition of a second story and an oriel and entry porch on the left-side elevation. Characteristic of late eighteenth-century small-scale dwellings, the decorative detailing accents window and door openings and the building's edges. The Thomas House detailing is especially refined and includes a wide entablature and molded pilasters framing the entry, a narrow denticular cornice, corner boards, and molded window surrounds. A small, gabled, one-and-one-half story barn is located to the rear of the property and appears to have been converted to living or office space. The house's fairly isolated setting surrounded by fields and woods remains suggestive of Hanson's nineteenth-century small-scale rural agricultural landscape.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Throughout much of the nineteenth century Holmes Street was largely undeveloped with the exception of a few eighteenth century houses and a school house. The immediately area around the Thomas House still remains rural. Joseph White dates the house to the 1770s, built by Edward Thomas. Thomas, a brother of John Thomas who built 541 High Street (see form no. 14), is the owner on the 1830 map. The 1832 town assessment of Thomas' land and buildings included five acres of English tilling and mowing, six acres of pasture, nine acres of woodland and an additional unspecified 15 acres. The barn's value of \$100 was only one-half of the house's. Thomas, however, did have \$300 in cash, a considerable sum at that time. Twenty-five years later the house belonged to T. Perkins, the first of several Perkins family members who owned the house for at least seventy years. By the early 1930s the house belonged to the estate of Elbridge M. Perkins, an inspector of animals, farmer and butcher earlier in the century.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1832, 1856, 1879, 1903

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Community
Hanson

Property Address
324 Holmes Street

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible.
 Contributing to a potential district.
- Eligible only in a historic district.
 Potential historic district.

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.